

**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (EQAC)
MINUTES**

**DATE: August 10, 2016
TIME: 7:15 PM – 10:20 PM
LOCATION: Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA**

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present Absent*	Name	Present Absent*
Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	P	Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	P
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	P	Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	P
William Furlong (Student Member)	P	Johna Gagnon (Lee)	P [†]
Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P	Richard Healy (Mason)	P
George Lamb (At-Large)	P	Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P
Paul Pitera (Braddock)	P	Alex Robbins (Providence)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	A	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P [†]

*Note: P indicates present, and A indicates absent

[†]Note: Member departed at 9:25 pm and did not vote on items discussed after that time

Staff Attendance

Kambiz Agazi, Noel Kaplan

Visitor Attendance

Scott Cameron, Reba Elliott, Charlie Forbes, Zachary Fountain, Pamela Gratton, Addie Lamb, Christine McCoy

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Briefing on the Solid Waste program--updates from the March 9, 2016 briefing:

Presenters:

Pamela Gratton – Director, Recycling, Engineering & Environmental Compliance, Solid Waste Management Program, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)
Christine McCoy – Outreach Specialist, Solid Waste Program, DPWES
Charlie Forbes – Chief, Recycling, Enforcement, and Planning Branch, Solid Waste Program, DPWES

Ms. Gratton, Ms. McCoy, and Mr. Forbes from the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) provided an update on the progress the SWMP had made on the 2015 EQAC recommendations in the Solid Waste section of the ARE.

Major topics covered included:

Composting – Establishing terms to use Prince William County’s new composting and anaerobic digestion facility; SWMP looking to establish a pilot-scale organic waste composting facility at the I-95 Landfill—future discussions with community stakeholders envisioned.

Recycling Outreach Education Site Visits – Anecdotal evidence suggested that commercial office buildings were not participating in recycling efforts. However, site visits conducted by the SWMP over the last several months found a much higher level of compliance than expected.

Recycling Enforcement Compliance – SWMP responded to over 250 reported cases of non-compliance and conducted over 300 random inspections, which resulted in 50 enforcement actions of various severity. SWMP also provided over 100 site visits and training events.

Evaluating Code Changes –

- *Yard Waste in Plastic Bags* – Fairfax is one of the last jurisdictions in the region that allows residents to set out yard waste in plastic bags. SWMP has investigated the issue and made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to enact legislation to forbid this practice. This change would take effect in FY 2018.
- *Disposal of Cathode Ray Tubes* – Many states do not allow Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) to be disposed of in normal trash streams. Starting in FY 2018, trash haulers operating in Fairfax County would not be allowed to dispose of CRTs in Fairfax landfills.

Cafeteria Food Waste Pilot Program – SWMP engaged the Fairfax Facilities Management Department and the contractor that runs the cafeteria at the county Government Center; both expressed interest in implementing a pilot project. Interestingly, upon further investigation, the SWMP determined that the “pay by the pound” system utilized in the cafeteria is very effective at limiting food waste, which is further reduced through the disposition of leftover food (i.e., food banks). Thus, SWMP is currently looking for other opportunities to implement a food waste recycling pilot project.

Clyde Wilber asked for more details regarding the extent of the proposed composting effort and asked about environmental impacts of composting vs. anaerobic digestion. Pamela Gratton noted that, for anaerobic digestion of food waste, the waste would need to be converted to a slurry form before being sent to a wastewater treatment plant digester.

Public Information on Recycling – SWMP has significantly increased outreach and education efforts on recycling programs within Fairfax County.

Recycling Rates – The recycling rate in Fairfax County, approximately 50%, exceeds the state requirement of 25%. However, SWMP suggested that recycling rates could potentially be increased, and suggested that EQAC recommend that the BOS investigate this issue. It was noted that there is not a county-specific recycling rate target beyond the state requirement.

Alternative Glass Recycling – SWMP previously committed to establishing a small pilot facility at the I-66 transfer station for processing post-consumer glass, due to the fact that glass is no longer a marketable product and is ending up in landfills. SWMP reported that in the process of learning about and setting up this small facility, the decision was made to establish a large facility at the I-95 landfill. The larger facility will likely be operational in mid-2017 and will produce a gravel-like aggregate product from the glass for county construction projects. Depending on the volume produced at the facility, SWMP will investigate the feasibility of selling this product.

A discussion followed regarding single stream recycling vs. a separation approach.

Current Recycling Markets – Global stresses on commodities markets and prices were noted. In response to a question as to whether the recycling program was becoming more economically beneficial, Pamela Gratton and Charlie Forbes indicated that it is.

Clyde Wilber asked if the county was giving up on the idea of reducing the volume of trash trucks on the roads. Pamela Gratton confirmed that the county was not pursuing limitations on where private haulers can operate and noted legislative prohibitions on doing this.

2. Consideration of EQAC legislative proposals for the 2017 General Assembly:

Noel Kaplan noted that, at the July meeting, EQAC appeared to reach a consensus in support of recommending retention of the Board of Supervisors' previous position on disposable bags. He suggested that EQAC may want to vote on this to clarify that this is the council's recommendation.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Larry Zaragoza moved for EQAC's support for retention of the Board's previous position on this issue. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Linda Burchfiel presented two draft proposals that focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency for the council's consideration.

Renewable Energy – This proposal suggested the removal of legal impediments to renewable energy companies that sell to power purchase agreements (PPAs), as well as expanding net metering programs. Noel Kaplan suggested an edit to the proposal to provide clarification as to what EQAC was asking the Board of Supervisors to do and a minor edit regarding the referencing of the 2016 legislative session.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Linda Burchfiel moved for approval of the renewable energy proposal with the edits suggested by Noel. Clyde Wilber seconded the motion.

Kambiz Agazi offered that the combination of these two issues may lessen the likelihood of success of the proposal, as the Board of Supervisors may be inclined to support one issue, but not the other. He suggested amended language and structure that would differentiate the two issues. Clyde Wilber offered a friendly amendment to better differentiate the two issues covered by the proposal by adding the numbers "1" and "2" in

front of the respective components of the proposal. Linda accepted the friendly amendment and the motion passed unanimously.

Energy Efficiency – This proposal suggested that Virginia’s energy efficiency goals, which are now voluntary, should be made mandatory. Kambiz Agazi provided some insight on the matter and clarified that Virginia does not have a renewable energy standard, like some other states, but that Dominion Power is incentivized to achieve energy efficiency goals set by the state. There was considerable debate about the focus of this proposal and whether it should focus on energy efficiency in general or be revised to support the adoption of a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS). Dr. Agazi and others on the council suggested that a focus on the adoption of an RPS would be more likely to find support on the BOS. Clyde Wilber proposed amended language for the proposal, which in part stated, “Support legislation that requires utilities to meet renewable energy portfolio standards that cost effectively and substantially increase the use of renewable energy.” It was also suggested that the title of the item be changed from “Energy Efficiency” to “Renewable Portfolio Standard.”

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Linda Burchfiel moved for approval of the energy efficiency proposal, as revised by the council. Rick Healey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. 2016 Annual Report on the Environment:

The council reviewed draft chapters/sections of the 2016 ARE, as detailed below:

Hazardous Materials - Johna Gagnon reviewed revisions that she made to the summary section and noted editor Ken Lanfear’s concurrence with those revisions.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Johna moved for approval of the summary section, with an understanding that updates may need to be made based on outstanding information that is expected to be provided later this month. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Technology – Ken Lanfear provided an update on the development of the new GIS section, which will be added to the ARE for 2016. Stella Koch suggested that the council wait until next month to move on approval of the summary and full chapter, once complete drafts were available for review, with an introduction and recommendations. There was general consensus amongst the council on the matter. Ken noted that many of the other chapters in the Annual Report would need to cross-reference the Technology chapter, but he suggested that this is something that should wait until next year’s report. He indicated that he would identify these needs after completion of this year’s report.

Ecological Resources – Renee Grebe discussed the updates that were made in this draft chapter. Stella Koch suggested that she would like to see a section added to this chapter that discusses the importance of environmental corridors and other unique and/or sensitive lands, and in particular focusing on what technologies are available to identify these lands and what mechanisms are available to protect them. Ken Lanfear added that some of the data sets that the GIS staff hopes

to obtain in the near future would aid in this analysis. Stella suggested that an item be added to the comment section of this chapter noting that EQAC would like to investigate this issue further next year. It was noted that EQAC would need to reach out to county staff for an update and assistance on this matter. There were also edits made to the second recommendation in this chapter for the sake of clarity. Stella and Noel Kaplan each noted the hard work that Renee put in to updating this chapter and thanked her for her efforts.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Renee Grebe moved for approval of the summary and full chapter. Ken Lanfear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Note: 9:25 pm, Johna Gagnon and Clyde Wilber departed the meeting.

Wildlife – Frank Crandall provided a summary of updates to the chapter.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Frank Crandall moved for approval of the summary and full chapter as presented. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Light Pollution – Frank Crandall provided a summary of updates to the chapter. Stella Koch suggested that there be an overview sentence to the recommendations along the lines of “We recommend the following changes within the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.” Ken Lanfear suggested that this could be accomplished by moving comment #6 to the recommendations section as a preamble to the recommendations. Renee Grebe asked if the county has investigated the use of lights that do not attract insects and it was decided by the council that this would be an issue to investigate for next year’s report.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Ken Lanfear moved for approval of the summary and full chapter as revised per the discussion above. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Reporting Environmental Crimes/Concerns – Linda Burchfiel questioned whether the language pertaining to the removal of signs along roadways and medians could be broadened to include removal for aesthetic, as well as safety reasons. Noel Kaplan noted that he would work with Code Compliance on this issue.

Schedule for EQAC reviews of remaining chapter/section drafts – Noel Kaplan noted that the new student member, William Furlong, had agreed to coordinate the Stewardship/Volunteer Opportunities section. Noel and Stella Koch suggested that each chapter author send recommendations from their sections pertaining to this item to William. Noel agreed to send e-mails to all members to remind them to provide this assistance and to provide their respective sections of the Scorecard.

4. Discussion of the agenda for the September 14 joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee:

Noel Kaplan noted that there seemed to be a consensus from the council during the July meeting that EQAC would like to have only one agenda item for the September 14 joint meeting: a briefing on the public input that was received for the update of the county's Environmental Vision document. He noted that the briefing to EQAC on the FY 2018 budget process would be provided at the November meeting in order to be able to incorporate the results of the Meals Tax referendum. EQAC confirmed Noel's understanding regarding the September 14 joint meeting agenda.

Noel pointed out that there would, after the joint meeting, be a full business meeting with chapter reviews for the ARE. He asked EQAC to confirm that it would be acceptable if the joint meeting was to take less than the customary two hours. There was a consensus in support of a shorter joint meeting.

Noel reminded authors of Annual Report chapters scheduled for review on September 14 that chapter drafts are needed by September 2.

5. Report from the Environmental Excellence Awards Committee

The award committee, consisting of Ken Lanfear, Renee Grebe, Linda Burchfiel, and Paul Pitera reported that they had discussed the nominations that had been submitted and had reached a decision on awardees in a separate meeting preceding the July EQAC meeting. However, the award committee did not have a record of their decisions available at the current meeting.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Rick Healy moved to accept the recommendations of the award committee that would be provided to Noel Kaplan in an email following the current EQAC meeting. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There was continued discussion on the matter. Noel Kaplan reviewed the list of nominees and the award committee attempted to recall the decisions that they had reached on the awardees. Ultimately, the award committee was able to recall all of the previously selected awardees, and there was additional discussion about one nomination that caused the committee to add that nomination to the list of recommended awardees. Award recipients that were recommended per this discussion were:

Individual – John Houser and Randy Sayles

Organization – Rebuild Warehouse and Town of Vienna Community Enhancement Commission

Business – Booz Allen Hamilton and Freddie Mac

County Employee – Katherine Edwards

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Rick Healy moved to reconsider the previous vote. George Lamb seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Larry Zaragoza then moved to approve the recommendations of the award committee as identified above, provided that they are

consistent with the information from the award committee's notes from the July meeting. Renee Grebe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Approval of meeting minutes

There were no meeting minutes for approval.

7. Chairman's items

None

8. Council member items

Larry Zaragoza noted that he had previously put together information on a possible recommendation for an action plan relating to climate change. He indicated that he wanted to revise this document to recognize that legislative pieces would need to be addressed separately and have this document recirculated to council members. Noel Kaplan indicated that he would wait to get Larry's revision and would then circulate it.

George Lamb introduced his daughter Addie, who was a guest at the meeting.

9. Staff items

Noel Kaplan noted that he had circulated Rich Weisman's draft position paper on a regional trail and that he received no suggestions for changes. He indicated that he would forward this position paper to the Board of Supervisors. Stella Koch asked Noel to express thanks to Rich for preparing such a nicely done piece.

Noel Kaplan noted that EQAC had previously requested a briefing on the new state law pertaining to the application of proffers in rezoning cases and how this may affect environmental considerations during the zoning process, and the environment in general, in Fairfax County. Noel reported that he was coordinating with Barbara Berlin of the Department of Planning and Zoning, as well as the County Attorney's office, on this issue and that he anticipated that staff should be available for a briefing to EQAC in November or December. He requested that EQAC members email questions in advance of the briefing, so that they could be reviewed by both Barbara and the County Attorney's office in advance of the briefing. In response to a request from Stella Koch, Noel agreed to provide EQAC with an overview of the proffer system during the October EQAC meeting.

In response to a question raised during the July EQAC meeting, Noel noted that he had coordinated with the County Attorney's office and confirmed that personal notes taken during EQAC meetings by the council members are subject to disclosure pursuant to Virginia's Freedom of Information Act.

Noel reported that he had received a question from a citizen regarding how EQAC uses GIS information in its analysis of environmental issues. Noel agreed to work with Stella Koch, Larry Zaragoza, and Ken Lanfear to craft a response to that question.

Noel referenced a letter that had been sent to Chairman Bulova from Paul Siegel about mosquito control efforts. EQAC had been copied on this letter, and Noel noted that he had included copies for all members in their meeting folders.

Finally, Noel noted that he would be on leave between August 22 and August 31.

10. Adjournment – 10:20 pm

Upcoming meetings

September 14, 2016: Joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee, Conference Rooms 9 & 10, Government Center, 5:00 PM

Thursday, October 13, 2016: Regular Meeting, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7:15 PM

November 9, 2016: Regular Meeting, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7:15 PM